

Bernhard Living History

A Parent's Guide to Success



The Bernhard Museum Complex consists of three historic structures on approximately 1.5 acres. The history of the complex mirrors the economic transitions of Placer County. The main building was constructed in 1851 during the California Gold Rush and was operated as an inn. The proprietors, George Bishop and John Long named it the "Travelers Rest."

The property transitioned from a business to a private residence and in 1868 was purchased by Bernhard Bernhard whom the property is named after.

Bernhard emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania and later moved to St. Louis, Missouri. After hearing of the gold discovery he traveled via the Isthmus of Panama to Placer County in 1852. Like many other gold seekers he turned to a profession other than gold mining. He acquired a teaming business, transporting goods. His wife Rosa joined him in Auburn a few years later.

After purchasing the estate in 1868 Bernhard established himself as a fruit grower. Apples, pears and figs were among the many different fruits grown there. He also utilized an existing vineyard on the property to make wine and brandy. Half of the vineyard produced table grapes. He built a stone wine cellar in 1874 and added a processing building in 1881.

Grandson George Barkhaus lived in the house until his death in 1956. His brother Benjamin inherited the property and sold what remained of the parcel to the 20th Agricultural District in 1958. In 1973, Placer County negotiated for the Bernhard house as a potential museum site. Local residents raised the funds for the building's restoration, which took 10 years and \$250,000 to complete. The Museum opened to the public in 1982. The present carriage barn was added in the 1990s to house wagons and carriages owned by the Museums and the Native Sons of the Golden West.

The Bernhard Museum is open 11:00-4:00 Tuesday through Sunday. Admission is free.



Suggested Dress Code

Men and Boys: long-sleeved cotton shirt, jeans or coveralls, suspenders and a hat

Girls: long-sleeved blouse, mid-calf cotton skirt, black tights, apron, and a hat/bonnet.

Women: long-sleeved blouse, long cotton skirt, apron, and a hat

Adults may also wear additional items relating to their chosen occupations

Where to Find Period Attire

- Local thrift shops such as Goodwill Store and the Salvation Army.
- Parents from past classes that participated in Living History.
- Auburn, Joyce Silva of the Trumpery: (530-823-0409) \$20 adult; \$15/child. Please launder before returning.
- Roseville, Diane Wukmir: (916-300-3990) \$10-\$20 for outfit, kids, women and men.
- Citrus Heights, Clothes Enough Costumes (916-721-5557) www.closeenoughcostumes.com.
- West Roseville, Dawn Cornsilk (916 396-4958 cell/text), Dawn4958@yahoo.com. \$5-20 men, women & children. No laundering required.



Pack an Old-fashioned Lunch

An authentic lunch can be fun to prepare. Most children in 1889 brought leftovers to school--meat, cheese and fruit (Placer County grew a large variety of fruits: pears, apples, cherries, etc.). Avoid plastics and pre-packaged items; wrap foods in wax paper or a handkerchief. Some students bring their lunches in baskets, old coffee cans and handmade cloth bags. Some teachers and parents get together to provide beverages--bottled root or a large container of lemonade served in glass jars or tins cups.

Required Training

All parents on site for the field trip must train to lead their assigned stations. Our convenient online videos and printable handouts will give you the following:

1. For general information, study the *Living History Orientation Video*, the printable *Living History Parents Guide to Success* and the *FAQs*.
2. For information specific to your assigned activity, watch the video and read the printable routine for that activity.

Parent Responsibilities

1. Study the routine and history background in the training videos and printouts.
2. Arrive early, in period clothing and with an appropriate lunch on field trip day.
3. Help lead your assigned station, no roaming.
4. Teach the assigned activity so each child fully participates.
5. Keep each group together and engaged for the time period required.
6. Escort group to next activity.
7. Help maintain the authentic living history experience (no plastic cups, no phone calls, no sandals, etc.).
8. Clean up your activity at the end of the day.

NOTE: Only parents assigned to a station and in costume may stay all day and assist as group leaders.

Rain or Shine!

Because weather in the spring and the fall can include temperature and moisture extremes, we have set up alternative activity sites in sheltered areas around the museum grounds.